

Obituary Notices

LOUISE MCILROY, D.B.E., LL.D., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.O.G.

Dame Louise McIlroy, the first woman professor of obstetrics and gynaecology of the University of London, died in a Glasgow hospital on 8 February. She was 90.

Anne Louise McIlroy was the daughter of Dr. James McIlroy, a well-known general practitioner of Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, who handed on his love of medicine to two of his daughters. Louise McIlroy studied



at Glasgow University, where she was a distinguished and popular student. She graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1898, and proceeded M.D. with commendation two years later. She undertook postgraduate work in Dublin, London, Vienna, and Berlin, and soon showed her special leaning towards obstetrics and gynaecology. She was appointed first assistant to the Muirhead professor of obstetrics and gynaecology in Glasgow, Professor Munro Kerr, and much of her later teaching showed his influence. She was also gynaecological surgeon to the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, from 1906 to 1910, in which year she took the D.Sc. at Glasgow University.

At the outbreak of the first world war Louise McIlroy was well on the way to a successful and distinguished professional career in Glasgow, but she gave up all her appointments to go out to France as a surgeon with the Scottish Women's Hospital, and was in charge for a time at Troyes. Later she went to Serbia with l'Armée d'Orient and to Salonika, and lastly became a surgeon in the R.A.M.C. in Constantinople. For her services she was awarded the Croix de Guerre in 1916 and appointed an O.B.E. in 1920. Her book, *A Window on the Bosphorus*, gives a description of her adventures at this time. When the war ended she returned to Glasgow, but in 1921 she was appointed as the first woman professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at London University, the chair tenable at the Royal Free Hospital. Here she had no easy task, as the professorship was an experiment, and to many an unwelcome one. Furthermore, Louise McIlroy was a graduate from another school, and not even from London. Nevertheless, she remained undismayed, and, in face of much opposition at times, built up a unit which was an unqualified success. During her time of office the teaching of the students was well above the average and the examination results excellent. Her teaching of obstetrics was particularly inspiring, and much original research was carried out by her and her assistants during this time. She was also surgeon at the Marie Curie Hospital for Women. For her services to midwifery she was promoted to D.B.E. in 1929, and in the same year became a founder fellow of the

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. She took the M.R.C.P. in 1932, and in 1934 she retired, before her time had expired, as she wished for, in her own words: "a few years of freedom." During this time she studied and took the D.Sc. at London University in 1934, and the LL.D. at Glasgow in the following year. She also received many honorary degrees, the one that gave her the most pleasure being the Hon. D.Sc., Belfast, in 1931, an honour from her native country. Thereafter she practised in Harley Street and was consultant to the Bermondsey Medical Mission, the Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, and to the boroughs of Finchley and Walthamstow. She was elected F.R.C.P. in 1937.

On the outbreak of the second world war Dame Louise immediately offered her services again, though well past retiring age. She was consultant to Buckinghamshire County Council and helped to organize the emergency maternity services there. Undeterred by blackout and lack of equipment, she worked for a few weeks literally day and night, denuding her own house to provide comforts and equipment in the empty houses being turned into hospitals, and was always ready to go to emergencies when called.

She was a member of the British Medical Association and held office as President of the Metropolitan Counties Branch in 1946. She also served as Vice-President of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Annual Meetings of the Association in 1922, 1930, and 1932; was a representative in the Representative Body from 1936 to 1939; and a member of Council from 1938 to 1943. She was, in addition, a former president of the obstetrical section of the Royal Society of Medicine.

A colleague writes: Dame Louise had a charming personality with many true Irish characteristics, which could at times be irritating to the more matter-of-fact English. She was a good, easy speaker, and enjoyed nothing better than a wordy battle with her male colleagues, in which no quarter was given on either side. She could not bear the thought that her opinion would be passed unopposed just because she was a woman. She had the power of imparting to her assistants and students her own wealth of knowledge, her great sense of responsibility, her industry, and her kindness. She was a most hospitable and amusing hostess, and many will remember the parties at her cottage in Buckinghamshire which she loved so much. Among other achievements Dame Louise was one of the first to insist on an anaesthetic in every maternity case, to do work on the resuscitation of the newborn, and, above all, to teach her students to avoid "meddlesome midwifery."

J. A. M. M. writes: Many generations of students and young graduates aspiring to specialize have much for which to thank

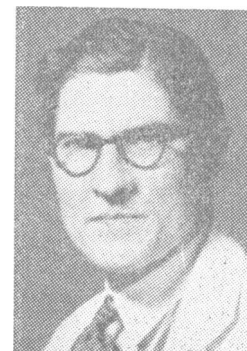
Dame Louise and the unit system which she created at the Royal Free Hospital. Her wise teaching and example were unforgettable. She was a shrewd clinician, with an inquiring mind brimful of ideas, able to organize research and delegate responsibility. She was a hard taskmaster, expecting the best from her staff. She was loyal to her juniors, but devastating in criticism if warranted. She was a prolific writer on subjects close to her heart, especially toxæmia of pregnancy, relief of pain in childbirth, and problems associated with asphyxia neonatorum.

Dame Louise had a great personal charm and striking appearance. Her beauty is obvious in the lovely portrait by Sargent which hangs in the junior common room at the medical school of the Royal Free Hospital. She was a brilliant speaker both in public and in scientific meetings—clear, to the point, with a puckish sense of humour. She could be poignantly critical, loving the cut-and-thrust of argument. Her assistants on "the unit" remember her with pride and gratitude for the opportunities to work with and for her. She laid the foundations for a tradition of good teaching in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Royal Free Hospital which survives. It is fitting that a new ward to be opened soon for gynaecological patients at the Royal Free has been named after her—this will keep her memory green. To her sister, Dr. Janie Hamilton McIlroy, we extend our sympathy.

J. D. BOYD, M.A., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.O.G.

Professor J. D. Boyd, professor of anatomy in the University of Cambridge, died at his home in Cambridge on 7 February, after an incapacitating and prolonged illness borne with great fortitude and dignity.

James Dixon Boyd was born on 29 September 1907 of Irish and Irish-American parents in New Jersey, U.S.A., and came to Ireland at an early age. He received his medical education at the



Queen's University, Belfast, where he was the outstanding student of his year and gained many scholarships and prizes. Early in his medical career he decided to become an anatomist. He graduated B.Sc. with first-class honours in 1927, and M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1930, again with honours and with medals in surgery, anatomy, and pathology. In 1934 he proceeded M.D., with a Gold Medal, and in 1961 his University honoured him by conferring on him an honorary D.Sc. The Royal College of

Obstetricians and Gynaecologists awarded him an honorary fellowship in 1963. He held house appointments at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, and from 1931 to 1934 was a demonstrator in the department of anatomy at the Queen's University, Belfast. In 1934 he was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship at the Carnegie Institution in Baltimore, where he came under the influence of Dr. G. L. Streeter. On returning to Britain in 1935 he joined the staff of the anatomy department in Cambridge, and soon thereafter he was elected to a fellowship of Clare College. At the early age of 31 years he was appointed to the chair of anatomy in the London Hospital Medical College, where he remained until he was appointed to the chair at Cambridge in 1951.

Dixon Boyd made numerous contributions to the study of neurology and embryology. His early papers were concerned with the development of the carotid body, and culminated in a major publication in 1937 which appeared in the *Contributions to Embryology of the Carnegie Institution*. His work on the sympathetic nervous system, in collaboration with Dr. P. A. G. Monro, demonstrated the importance of "the intermediate ganglia," which lie between the ventral aspect of spinal nerves and the sympathetic ganglia; this contribution is of considerable physiological and clinical importance.

His investigations on the human placenta are well known. With Dr. Arthur Hughes he published observations on the electron-microscopy of the human chorionic villi, contemporaneously with Wislocki and Dempsey. Boyd's collections of human embryos and in-situ placentae are very extensive and have been of great value to many research students who have worked in the anatomy department. In addition to his own research he was responsible for building up a first-class team of research investigators, and was an inspiration to them.

Dixon Boyd was trained in a rigorous school with a traditional morphological approach. In spite of this, even from his student days he was interested in the application of methods from other scientific disciplines. Indeed, he was a leading member of a small group of anatomists who rationalized the teaching of anatomy in this country by emphasizing principles governing structural relationship and their functional significance rather than concentrating on morphological detail. He was honoured by his fellow anatomists in being elected president of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and he also was editor of the *Journal of Anatomy*. He was a fellow of the International Institute of Embryology, and an honorary member of the Anatomische Gesellschaft. He was proud of the fact that for a time he was professor of anatomy at the Royal Academy of Arts. He was joint author of a textbook, *Human Embryology*, which enjoys a wide circulation. In addition, he contributed to the 3rd edition of Marshall's *Physiology of Reproduction*, and to a *Textbook of Human Anatomy*. At the time of his death he had almost completed (in collaboration with W. J. Hamilton) the manuscript of a book on the human placenta.

Boyd was a superb teacher and lecturer, and also took a keen interest in the general affairs of the university. He endeared himself to a wide circle of friends, being a sincere

and honest man with remarkable ability. As a friend he was capable of warm affection. He was always willing to help the student or young worker in times of difficulty. Throughout his life he read widely. Whether the conversation turned from Alexandrian medicine to English literature, from Gibbon's history to politics, he spoke with genuine authority and held the interest of his audience. He had a phenomenal memory and seemed never to forget anything he had read. In every respect he was an outstanding person, and he will be long remembered by his friends, colleagues, and former students. His death is a serious loss to anatomy.

To his devoted wife and four sons we extend our sincerest sympathy.—W. J. H.

P. A. G. M. writes: Dixon Boyd had an encyclopaedic memory on a wide range of papers in anatomy and medicine. He read these avidly, and never found difficulty in recalling any significant contribution to knowledge, even when this was relatively unrecognized and not mentioned in the references of other workers on the subject. Often he knew the author personally or had read his other papers. Discussion with Professor Boyd was always stimulating, and anyone who consulted him came away with reprints or references which enabled him to cover quickly the state of present knowledge or the lack of it. Occasionally his attention could be drawn to a paper in a controversial field which suggested a new line of thought, only to find that he already knew of it, or the author, and had doubts on the validity of the conclusions. On re-evaluation it was soon evident that Boyd's views were perfectly right. Many authors referred to his assistance at the end of a new paper, and this acknowledgement was always real and never mere deference to courtesy. Indeed, J. D. Boyd's name should have appeared as co-author of many papers which otherwise can only be recognized by their lucid and precise English.

A. J. C. HAMILTON, O.B.E., M.B.
CH.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.ED.

Mr. A. J. C. Hamilton, formerly consultant surgeon to the Northern (Scotland) Regional Hospital Board, died at Inverness on 2 February, thus ending a long period of valued service to surgery in the north of Scotland. He was 70.

Arthur James Cochrane Hamilton was born in Edinburgh on 21 July 1897, and was educated at George Watson's College and at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. with honours in 1920, and was awarded the Annandale Gold Medal in clinical surgery. After resident house-surgeon posts he held a number of appointments providing training and experience for a general surgeon. Among them were those of senior demonstrator in anatomy, assistant pathologist, senior surgical clinical assistant at the Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, surgical clinical tutor, and clinical assistant in the x-ray diagnostic theatre at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh. His natural ability as a teacher became evident, and his charm of manner, kindness, and

helpfulness earned the highest regard from medical students and postgraduates, among whom "Hammy" was a great favourite. By his seniors he was appreciated as a young surgeon of outstanding ability and promise. In 1924 he obtained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and two years later that of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

In 1927 he went to Inverness to take up private surgical practice, together with the post of honorary visiting surgeon to the Northern Infirmary, making his home and his life's work in the north of Scotland. In succeeding years he saw a large extension and development of the infirmary, later renamed the Royal Northern Infirmary. In this reorganization his ideas and enthusiasm were of great value, as they were also in the alterations and improvements in other hospital services in the north. He was consultant surgeon to the Belford Hospital, Fort William, and at times he had to undertake surgery in other parts of the Highlands as distant from Inverness as Wick, Thurso, and the Isle of Skye.

With the development of specialist units, especially after the opening of an emergency medical service hospital at Raigmore in 1941, he assisted in the creation and administration of a modern hospital service, being a useful member of the hospital board of management, the regional hospital board, and many other committees. Having been an examiner for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh for many years, he was elected to the Council for two periods, and he was a vice-president of that College for five years until last October. In recognition of his services he was appointed O.B.E. in the New Year Honours 1962. After his retirement in July 1962 from the appointment of senior consultant surgeon to the Northern Regional Hospital Board, he continued to carry out his duties to the College and to various committees. A member of the British Medical Association, he was president of the Northern Counties of Scotland Branch in 1954-5, and chairman of the Inverness Division in 1963-4.

Arthur Hamilton suffered periods of serious illness throughout his life, which were conquered by the good physique, vitality, and courage he possessed. He has left innumerable grateful patients, and a host of friends. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Margaret, and to his son and daughter.—H. M.

W. J. B. writes: Arthur Hamilton came to Inverness at the time when the extension to the Royal Northern Infirmary was beginning, and he played an important part in helping with the design and layout of the new building. On its completion he organized the surgical unit to work on modern lines, and initiated a record system where previously there had been none. As the years passed various specialist units were added to the infirmary, and these all developed on lines instituted by Mr. Hamilton. The teaching of nurses was further advanced by his enthusiasm. Young medical men were attracted to the infirmary to watch him operate, and to follow him on his ward visits. They, and the many house-surgeons who were so fortunate as to work with him, are now experienced doctors with a knowledge enhanced by this early contact. Scrupulous in all his methods in the operating-theatre and in the wards, he

would stand no careless or slipshod procedure, and he inspired doctors and nurses to give of their best. His many contacts with the larger medical centres were instrumental in the formation of joint clinics, held at the Royal Northern Infirmary, where eminent specialists from university centres came to discuss and follow up serious and difficult cases. Arthur Hamilton gave nothing less than the best.

A. MCCARTHY, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Dr. A. McCarthy, a general practitioner in Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath, and a past-president of the Irish Medical Association, died on 23 January. He was 70.

Andrew McCarthy was born on 25 March 1897, and received his medical education at University College, Cork, graduating M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1920. He came to Birmingham in 1922 and joined the practice of the late Dr. F. A. L'E. Burges, who took a prominent part in local medical affairs at that time, and it is not unlikely that this encouraged Andrew to take an active interest himself in medical politics. A member of the British Medical Association, he served for many years on the executive committee of the Birmingham Division, and was a representative at the Annual Meeting from 1933 to 1939. In 1936 he was chairman of the Birmingham Division, and in 1939 he was elected to Council by the Representative Body. In the same year he became a member of the Hospitals and Finance Committees. He had previously chaired the Conference of Public Medical Services, a movement in which he played a vital part. He also served on the Birmingham Panel Committee. During this period I had the privilege of working closely with him. He was an inspiring and encouraging colleague, whose ideas were always sound and whose criticism was always frank and valid.

In 1941 his wife became ill and he had to return with her to Ireland, where he set up in practice at Kinnegad, in Co. Westmeath. It did not take long for his colleagues in Ireland to recognize his qualities, and in due course he became chairman of Council of the Irish Medical Association, vice-president of that association in 1953 and president in 1954. He also held office for several years as honorary secretary and honorary treasurer of the I.M.A.

In 1960, to the delight of everybody who knew him, he returned to the Council of the B.M.A. as the representative of the Irish Medical Association, and in the same year he was elected a fellow of the B.M.A. Although he seldom spoke in Council, his advice always carried much weight.

Andrew was a great character. He had a fund of amusing stories and a ready wit which could in a second resolve a tension or a difficulty. He was possessed of sound common sense and logic, and he put his case firmly, forcibly, and without rancour. I never knew him make an enemy, and wherever he went he made friends—and Andrew was always a true and loyal friend. He was kindly and thoughtful towards others, and in his medical practice showed humanity and understanding. He was particularly fond of children, and the children loved him. He was a man of high principles, and was always ready to fight for them. He could

be tough when necessary, but never with malice. He was a devout Catholic, but always stressed the importance of being tolerant to, and understanding of, the beliefs of others. It is platitudinous to say that those who knew him will find the world an emptier place without him, but about no man could this be more truly said. His wife died suddenly a year ago, and he leaves two daughters, one of whom is a doctor. Their grief is shared by all his old friends.—S. W.

D. D. CRANNA, T.D., M.B., CH.B. F.R.C.S.

Mr. D. D. Cranna, consultant orthopaedic surgeon to the Salford Hospital Group, died on 22 December 1967. He was 58.

Duncan Davidson Cranna, son of Dr. Robert Cranna, was born on 24 June 1909, and was educated at Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, and at Manchester University. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1934 and obtained the Conjoint diploma in the same year. His interest in orthopaedic surgery developed early, with appointments at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry. He was a demonstrator and then a lecturer at the Manchester Medical School. Joining the R.A.M.C. in 1939, he served during the second world war as an orthopaedic specialist. After demobilization with the rank of major he continued his training under the guidance of Sir Harry Platt. He took the F.R.C.S. in 1947, and in 1949 became consultant orthopaedic surgeon to Salford Royal and Hope Hospitals and to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. He was also visiting surgeon to the Bethesda Crippled Children's Home, and lecturer in orthopaedic surgery at the Manchester Foot Hospital.

Duncan Cranna was a man whose breadth of character defied adequate appreciation. Born of Aberdonian stock, firmly rooted in Bolton, and refined by the classical education of a Scottish public school, he was an unassuming man with a particular talent for friendship. As a speaker he was unrivalled. It mattered not if his audience was a large gathering or just a few friends, he had a turn of phrase and a sense of timing which transformed the description of ordinary events; but with this he was an excellent listener. He was a lifelong devotee of rugby football. After a distinguished playing career he continued to serve the game as a referee, and then in the wider administrative field as president of the Manchester University Athletic Union. He was for many years in the Territorial Army, rising to the rank of lieutenant-colonel (R.A.M.C.), and was awarded the Territorial Decoration. He was a deacon and a valued member of his local Congregational church.

Duncan was a skilled and hard-working craftsman, possessed of a critical faculty and an intellectual honesty which he always applied first to his own opinions. Impatient at times of the vagaries of administrators, he was himself a sound organizer, and brought to the councils of his colleagues a robust common sense, enlivened by his ready wit. He had a wide interest in all branches of his specialty: he was particularly interested in the care of the crippled child; his sporting background gave him a special insight into the

treatment of the injured athlete; and his skill with words and his grasp of fundamentals made him an accomplished teacher. A fellow of the British Orthopaedic Association, he contributed much both to the discussions and to the social activities of the society. With all this, he was a man with strong family ties. When overtaken by his last illness, which he bore with extraordinary fortitude, he was planning to retire to a farm in Scotland.

His death has left a great gap in the lives of his family and his many friends. To his wife, Yvonne, and his seven children, we offer deep sympathy.—O. O. C.

A. G. OETTLÉ, B.SC., M.B., B.CH.

Dr. A. G. Oettlé, head of the cancer research unit of the National Cancer Association of South Africa, died last December at the early age of 48.

Alfred George Oettlé was born at Port Elizabeth in 1919, and received his medical education at the University of the Witwatersrand, graduating B.Sc. in 1940 and M.B., B.Ch. two years later. During his undergraduate career he had obtained first-class honours in most subjects, and had received five prize awards. After early house appointments as house-physician and house-surgeon at the General Hospital, Johannesburg, he was appointed to the staff of the department of anatomy at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he remained for seven years. During this time he came to Britain on a Nuffield Foundation medical scholarship, and spent 15 months in the department of haematology at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, after which he was awarded the Lady Cade Memorial Fellowship, which enabled him to study cancer research methods in various laboratories in Europe. Returning to South Africa in 1951, he was appointed cancer research fellow at the South African Institute for Medical Research, where he established a unit which became known throughout the world. In 1958, recognizing the value of his work, the National Cancer Association of South Africa gave him full financial support.

During his all-too-brief but highly productive life George Oettlé demonstrated brilliantly not only to South Africa but to the world what could be done in the field of demographic pathology in South Africa. Many before him had noted differences in disease patterns in the race groups of South Africa, but it took Oettlé to apply this to the field of cancer. His researches over a brief period of 16 years strengthened the theory that environment might be all-important in the causation of cancer. Together with his colleague Higginson he determined cancer rates in the Bantu population of Johannesburg. This survey, planned with great care and carried out with scrupulous attention to detail, has become the standard pattern for similar surveys in underdeveloped countries in other parts of the world where accurate vital statistics are not available. As a result of this work he became convinced that at least 80% of cancers are induced by environmental factors, and are therefore at least theoretically preventable.

Despite many attractive offers to work in overseas institutions he firmly refused to leave South Africa. He believed that the multiracial nature of South Africa's popula-

tion, together with the infinite spectrum of slow transition in the Bantu from tribalism to Western sophistication, offered opportunities for this type of work which were not available anywhere else in the world.

He leaves a wife and six children.

J. A. ACHESON, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Dr. J. A. Acheson, a former senior medical officer in the Colonial Medical Service, died on 3 January at Luanshya Hospital, Zambia, after a short illness. He was 75.

James Alexander Acheson, the son of a stock farmer, was born at Dunard, Broughshane, Co. Antrim, on 14 June 1892, and was educated at Ballymena Academy and Trinity College, Dublin. His studies were interrupted by the first world war, during which he served with the Royal Field Artillery in France, where he was wounded. After demobilization with the rank of lieutenant he resumed his studies, and graduated M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1921, taking the D.P.H. a year later. After holding early appointments at Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, Chester Royal Infirmary, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, in 1923 he joined the British South Africa Company as medical officer, and remained with the then Northern Rhodesia Medical Service until 1948.

His professional life spanned a fascinating period in Central Africa. On arrival the meagre economy allowed only scanty medical supplies, and buildings spread over an enormous area of low population density. As a Government medical officer successively in Livingstone, Solwezi, Fort Jameson, and Choma, he had to cope with districts the size of Wales, travelling on foot, or with push-bike or motor-cycle, along winding paths and flooded rivers. Enjoying the challenge, he was rewarded by a lasting interest and affection for the African villager. Hunting and fishing provided necessary food as well as an opportunity for sport, and he was a notable shot. Although often far from civilization, he kept up his reading and writing, and while at Solwezi published a paper on yaws, for which he was awarded the M.D. As an administrator his wide knowledge, kindly common sense, and rugged imperturbability were invaluable, and he acted as director of medical services in Lusaka. During the war years he was medical officer to the Union Defence Force, with the rank of major. Specializing in dermatology, he retired from Government service, and in addition to his specialty took on the appointment of railway medical officer, with general practice in Ndola.

Throughout his career Jim was supported by his wife, Maud, daughter of Archdeacon Johnson, of Clonbroney, Co. Longford, whom he married in 1927. Countless friends and acquaintances enjoyed hospitality in the charming open house they always kept. Wherever they were stationed Maud devoted her time to local charities and social work, in recognition of which she was appointed M.B.E. in 1964. During the political upheavals before and after the granting of independence Jim maintained a solid common-sense attitude to race problems, believing in the essential unity of human nature regardless of the colour of the skin. This was a great

contribution to the liberal cause, and their house received all races without distinction. Four children survive, a tribute to their home and background. All won scholarships for further education, and their professions include engineering, medicine, and administration. Leisure for Jim never meant idleness. Whether duck-shooting, carving ivory tusks, mending or making, or dosing sheep, his ingenuity and expertise were a delight. He retired at the age of 73 to a small farm with a hill-top cottage overlooking the Kafue river, where open house was still the rule. Innumerable friends in Zambia and all over the world share the family's loss.—A. C. F.

A. G. MEARNs, M.B.E., B.Sc., M.D. D.P.H.

Dr. A. G. Mearns, senior lecturer in epidemiology and preventive medicine at the University of Glasgow, died at his home in Glasgow on 6 January. He was 65.

Alexander Gow Mearns was born in Glasgow on 24 November 1902, and received his medical education at Glasgow University, graduating B.Sc. in 1925 and M.B., Ch.B. a year later. In 1929 he took the D.P.H., and was appointed to the university staff. He proceeded M.D. with high commendation in 1932. In 1935 he became a lecturer in epidemiology and preventive medicine at the university, and in 1944 a senior lecturer. For some years he was examiner in hygiene to the University of Glasgow. He was appointed part-time medical adviser to the Scottish Council for Health Education in 1966.

He took a great interest in social medicine, and travelled all over Scotland delivering popular lectures on health subjects. In recognition of his services in this field he was appointed M.B.E. in 1956. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society.

Dr. Mearns is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son.

H. J. MACVEAN, M.B., CH.B., D.A.

Dr. H. J. Macvean, a former general-practitioner anaesthetist at Leeds, died on 21 January at the age of 87.

Herbert James Macvean was born on 14 June 1880. His studies were interrupted by the South African War, during which he served as a volunteer transport driver in the Army Medical Service under Colonel De Burgh Birch. On demobilization he resumed his studies, and graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Manchester University in 1904 and at Leeds University the following year, whereupon he undertook four years' postgraduate training at Leeds, Bradford, and Barrow. After experience of general practice in different parts of the north, and two years as a ship's surgeon, he finally settled down at Roundhay, Leeds, in 1911 to make his own way as general practitioner and anaesthetist.

During the first world war he was resident surgical officer at East Leeds War Hospital, and later saw service in Egypt, Salonika, and Italy. After demobilization he resumed his

practice and his work as anaesthetist, and in 1935 took the diploma in anaesthetics. During the second world war he was a consulting anaesthetist, being graded senior hospital medical officer. He was a senior fellow of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain, and a member of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Dr. Macvean was of that generation of general practitioners who practised alone in the days before the present vogue of combined partnerships. His standards of practice were very high, and consequently he was greatly respected and held in high estimation by his patients. He preceded the present scientific anaesthetist era, and was one of a small group of general-practitioner anaesthetists to give devoted service to the Leeds General Infirmary in the early days of this specialty.

His retirement was in two stages: in 1945 from active anaesthetics, and in 1950 from general practice.—R. B.

M. O'SULLIVAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Dr. M. O'Sullivan, a former general practitioner at Twickenham, Middlesex, died at his home in Petersham, Surrey, on 23 January. He was 66.

Mortimer O'Sullivan was born in Mallow, Co. Cork, on 18 July 1901, and received his medical education at University College, Cork. After house appointments at the Northern Infirmary at Cork he went to Liverpool, and then moved to Twickenham, where he was in practice for 40 years. He was chairman of the South Middlesex Division of the British Medical Association in 1951–2, and served on the executive, ethical, and social committees. He was lecturer in health education at St. Mary's College, Twickenham, and chairman of St. John's Hospital medical committee for many years. In his chosen profession Dr. Mortimer O'Sullivan embodied the highest and finest standards of family doctoring. Appreciation of this was shown, on his retirement in April 1967, by the handsome gifts and many letters he received from his patients, and the presentation from the medical staff of St. John's Hospital, which he had served loyally for so long.

Our memories of Mortimer are his absolute integrity, his philosophy, and above all his humanity and pity. He did not suffer fools gladly, but he always felt sorry for them. He set his ideals high, and often regretted that he fell short of what he felt he should have achieved. In this he criticized himself unjustly, for no man nor good cause sought his help in vain. Whether in consultation, in committee, or in public, he was always listened to with interest, affection, and respect. He had a great and kind sense of humour. Often, during some serious discussion, he would sit back, a gentle smile coming over his face, and say: "That reminds me of the time . . ."—then followed a delightful story, often pungent but never malicious, told with full Irish charm. For us who were privileged to know him his memory will never fade.

To his wife, his two daughters, and two sons, both in the medical profession, and their families, we send our sympathy in their irreparable loss.—W. A. S.